Denver Field Ornithologists

Happy New Year, Birders!

The February-March 2021 issue of *The Lark Bunting* is now available for viewing at: https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf. Among this month's news and features:

+ A “Birding Close to Home” trip with DFO’s **Chuck Hundertmark** to Joder Ranch, a little-known birding gem where Arabian horses once roamed north of Boulder

+ A citizen-science primer to many ways you can help the cause of bird science, from your daily *eBird* lists to helping on spring and fall “hawk watches” and DFO’s own Colonial Waterbirds project

+ A review of our special joint program in December with Denver Audubon about Partners in Flight and a Colorado-based database that assesses and ranks the vulnerability of the more than 700 regularly breeding bird species in North America

+ Look-aheads to three monthly programs via Zoom webinar on how and what birds hear, how birds and vegetation are faring since the upheaval of the Chatfield Reservoir expansion, and the small wonders of hummingbird. You can register for the first one — “Have You Ever Thought About Birds’ Ears?” on Jan. 25 with **Garth Spellman** of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science — at this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_g9s2dQUOSm-wET9smsmg4Q

Plus updates on field trips, volunteer opportunities, “12 for ‘21” conservation tips and advice on tax-free giving to your favorite birding club . . . and more.

Stay mid-winter warm and pandemic-safe, everyone, and good birding . . . .

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Have You Ever Thought About Birds' Ears? Evolution of the Avian Inner Ear

Dr. Garth M. Spellman

January 25, 2021

7 PM MST

Free and open to the public. Register here via Zoom

Garth Spellman, curator of ornithology at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, talks about how examination of birds' inner-ear mechanics (literally, using bird cadavers) reveals how environmental change, both recent and ancient, has driven evolution of the anatomy that allows birds to hear. Working with postdoctoral research associate John Peacock, Spellman hopes that within a few years, we'll know enough about bird ears to model what sounds their avian ancestors could hear, too.

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Hello.

We hope you won't be leaving our flock. This year, Denver Field Ornithologists has more great programs for your enjoyment. Unfortunately, *your* DFO membership expired December 31st and will end on March 1. Don't let it happen!

Go to https://dfobirds.org/DFO/Membership.aspx where you can pay your dues through PayPal or by check and review your contact information. If you prefer, go to https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf and print the last page. Complete the form and mail with your check. And remember, your DFO membership is tax deductible. So please, renew today!!! *If you have already renewed, we thank you.*

You can also learn about and donate to the truly impactful work of the DFO Research, Education, and Conservation Fund online at https://dfobirds.org/DFO/Donate.aspx. Check it out, you'll be impressed.

Trouble or questions? Please contact us at membership@dfobirds.org.

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Chico Basin Ranch public comment period open - respond by Feb 9!

DFO members - The State Land Board will be voting on whether to keep Chico Basin Ranch intact or divide it into two parcels on Wed., Feb 10. While it looks like the SLB staff will recommend that the ranch remain intact and that birding and bird-banding be considered "scientific" and opposed to "revenue generating" activities, appearances can be deceiving. DFO is once again sending a letter in support of this position and it is important that the SLB hear from you, too!

Any member of the public can submit comments via this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdHLoANsTkJyomSRsPJm5aNH5EA-2sA8h7RlM8Df_ESURzjSQ/viewform or by mailing them to the CO State Land Board Commissioners, 1127 Sherman St, Denver, CO 80203. **Comments must be received by noon on Tuesday, Feb 9th.**

Some points you might like to make about Chico Basin Ranch include:

- Shortgrass prairie and grassland habitat is diminishing rapidly and properties of this size and quality are quite rare.
- Chico Basin Ranch is a major migratory bird pathway with 346 bird species documented. The ranch has high conservation values and biodiversity.
- Dividing the ranch up will involve adding roads, corrals, fencing and traffic causing unnecessary habitat fragmentation.
- Balancing conservation values and financial gain will benefit people and

Thanks in advance for submitting your comments! For more details about the issue of Chico Basin Ranch, read the articles in the most recent issue of *The Lark Bunting*.

Susan Blansett, Conservation Committee Chair

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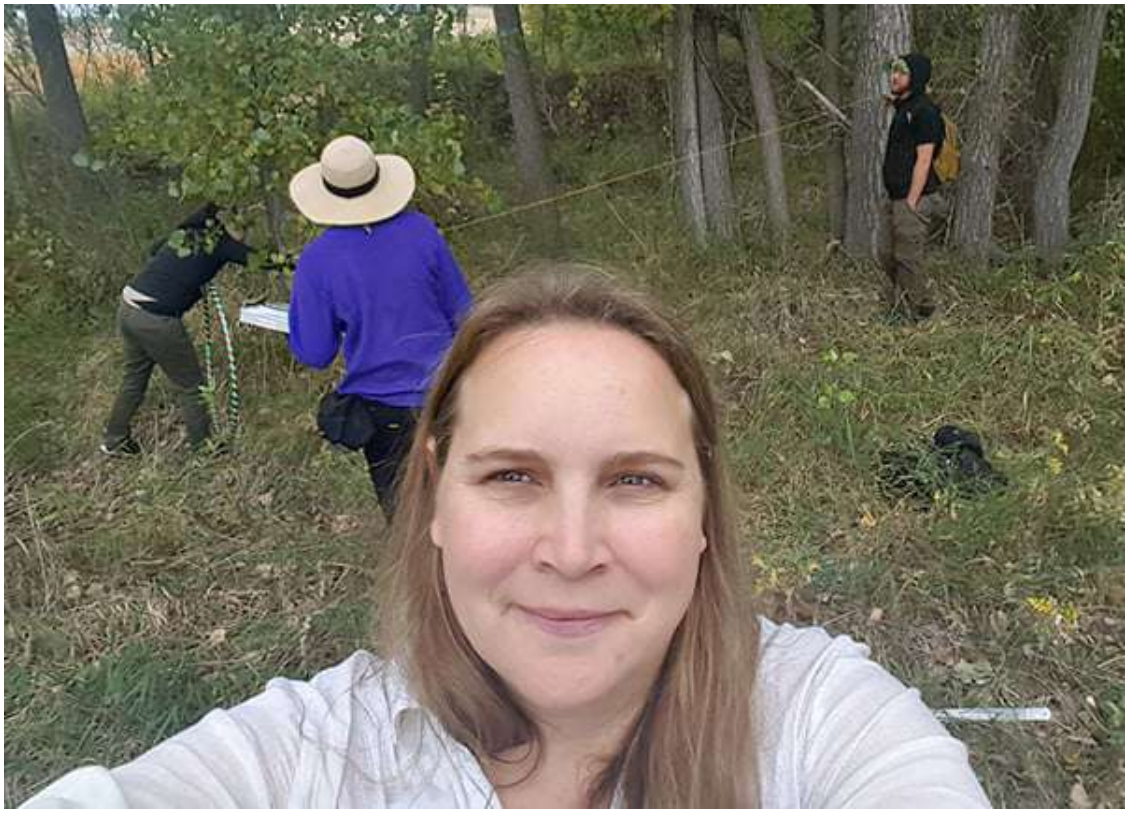

DFO's monthly program on February 22 and a special program on March 8 feature scientists who have received funding from DFO to support their research. Register now for both programs and find out how your donations to the grants fund are increasing our understanding of birds and bird populations.

The Birds and the Weeds: Monitoring the Ecological Response to the Chatfield Reallocation Project

February 22, 7 PM - **Dr. Erin Bissel**l

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Z_FEJlBJR_ivi76WOKkebA

Dr. Bissell is an assistant professor of biology at Metropolitan State University. She and her students monitored bird and plant diversity at Chatfield Reservoir across four seasons both before and after the recent work to increase water storage capacity by removing living and dead trees along the South Platte riparian corridor.

From Redpoll Plumage to Chickadee Poop: Insights into Avian Evolution and Ecology

March 8, 7 PM - Cori Carver and Erik Funk

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_lkTQ67pHSAufjQuZbNy2dw

Redpolls are a group that is notorious for presenting identification challenges and a long history of taxonomic debate. CU Boulder doctoral student Erik Funk examined the genetic basis of certain traits to better understand the evolutionary mechanism involved and whether it is resulting in the formation of new species or maintaining variation within the species.

Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees are frequently observed along the Front Range where increasing urbanization has altered the tree species present, disrupting the food available for insectivorous birds and potentially impacting their breeding success. CU Boulder undergraduate Cori Carver monitored chickadee breeding from Boulder to the Nederland, conducting arthropod surveys and analyzing fecal samples from nestlings to determine the impacts of human impact on avian songbird habitats.

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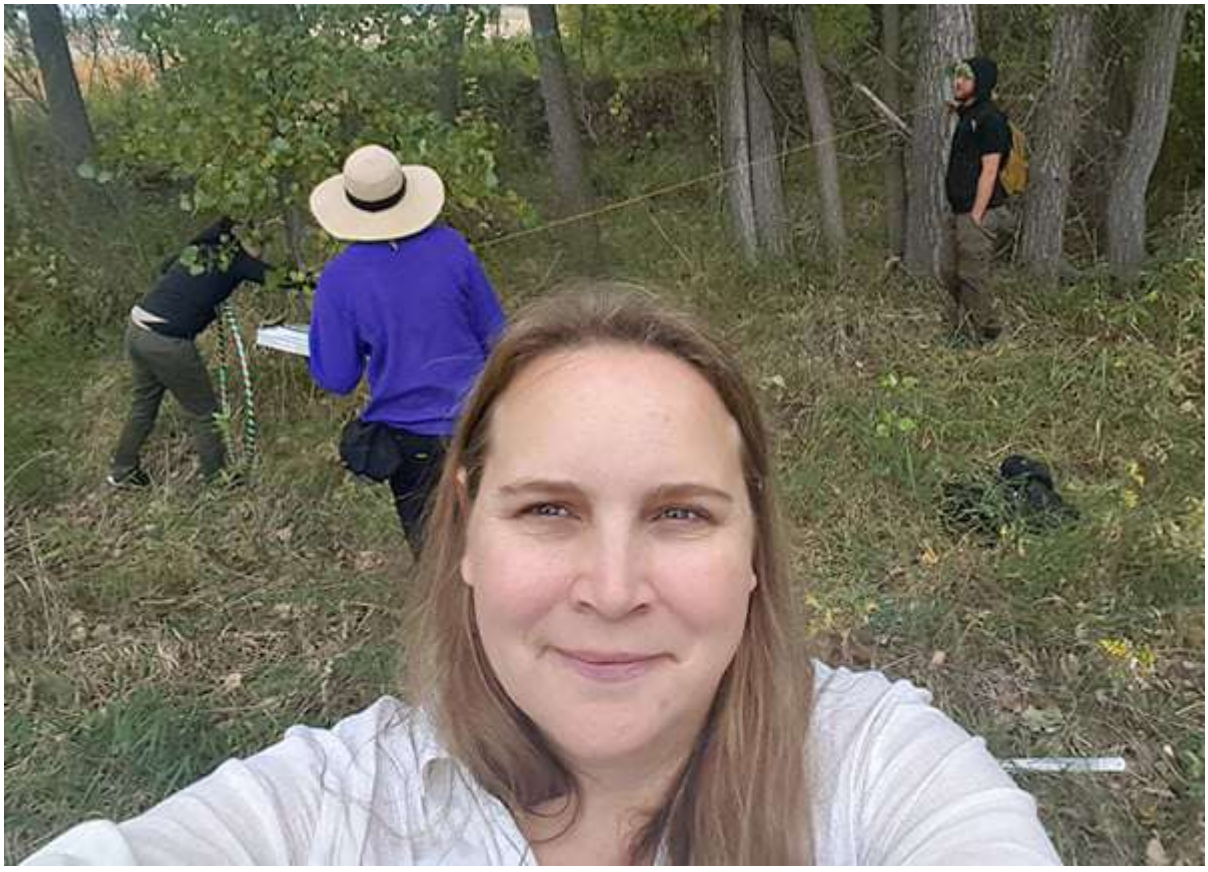
The Birds and the Weeds: Monitoring the Ecological Response to the Chatfield Reallocation Project



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April Lark Bunting

Happy March, DFO birders!

If it feels like spring, that means our mid-winter break is done and a new issue of *The Lark Bunting* is now available for viewing at: https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf.

This one is jam-packed with news and features, including:

+ The 2020 Colorado "Big Year" story of Denver teen **Cole Sage**, just the second person ever to record 400 state species in a single year (and his designated-driver mom is the third!)

+ A look back (and forward) to how we have continued to bird since the Covid-19 pandemic upended DFO field trips and club activities one year ago this month

+ Details about next month's DFO election and about the six bird research projects that DFO members and other generous donors will fund this year with our annual science grants

+ Conservation features about Colorado's "Important Bird Areas," the DFO-sponsored HawkWatch program now underway for 2020, and the latest on the future of birding at Chico Basin Ranch

+ Reviews of great DFO evening programs in January and February about birds' ears and the effect on birds and habitat of the Chatfield Reservoir expansion, plus previews of FOUR more Zoom programs this month and next

And don't forget! You can still sign up for the first of those coming this Monday on Zoom:

From Redpoll Plumage to Chickadee Poop: Insights into Avian Evolution and Ecology" — Register at this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IkTQ67pHSAufjQuZbNy2dw

Good early spring birding, everyone. Look for us again in April as migration begins to speed up for birds and birders alike!

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Hummingbirds: Small Wonders

Monday, March 22, 2021

7 PM via Zoom

free and open to the pubic

REGISTER HERE:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yRWkWrQPQFSIYA2YQ7ODcQ

Sheri L. Williamson is a lifelong naturalist, birder, and conservationist known internationally for her hummingbird research. She is director and co-founder of the Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory.

Although tiny, hummingbirds know how to live large. Their dazzling colors, fearless personalities, voracious appetites, and continent-spanning migrations have earned these miniature marvels a devoted following. But they are vulnerable to many of the same challenges as other migratory birds. Join us to learn what you can do build a brighter future for hummingbirds and get a sneak peek at a newly revised field guide.

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There and Back: Waterfowl and More

Richard Crossley

Monday, April 5, 2021

7 PM via Zoom

Free and open to the public

REGISTER HERE:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_clJy-z_JRN6c9-xunKNSpQ

Richard Crossley, acclaimed birder, photographer and guidebook author will talk about his 16,000-mile journey to the Arctic Ocean, the inspiring people he met and the places he visited along the way. Did that adventure shape The Crossley ID Field Guide: Waterfowl? Would he recommend the same trip to you?

Those are just two of the questions he will address. The answers may surprise you.

Crossley is co-founder of the global birding initiative Pledge to Fledge, Race4Birds and The Cape May Young Birders Club. He has served on the board of directors of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Philadelphia.

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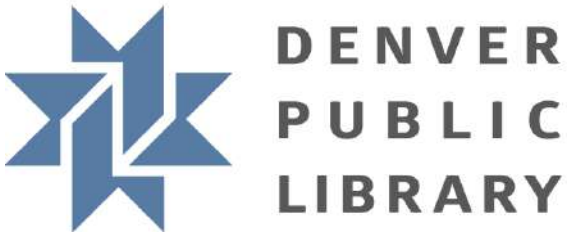

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Happy spring migration, DFO birders!

As the season cranks up and we look ahead to in-person field trips soon, the May issue of *The Lark Bunting* is now available at: https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf. Among this month's news and features:

+ "Bird-friendly" coffee — what's that mean? Where to get it? How does it taste? **Sharon Tinianow** brews full-bodied answers for the next serving in our "12 Tips for '21" conservation series

+ Colorado's nighthawks ("bullbats" to aficionados) so fascinate DFO member **Jared Del Rosso** that he wrote an essay about them on an urban wildlife blog. He has an updated intro and reprint of the original for us

+ DFO's April 19 program is about birding weather, with birder-meteorologist **Bryan Guarente** . . . read our preview, and don't forget to register for the program at this Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HeHO97XPTFKDSWFp-_3RtA

+ In his final "President's Message," outgoing DFO president **Dave Hill** sets the table for a busy spring, and more

+ Who will succeed Dave? Next week members begin online voting for DFO officers and board members. Our story introduces the candidates

Plus: an April workshop on birdsong ID, reviews of our March programs on hummingbirds and CU Boulder bird research projects, an update on annual passes for birders to Colorado's State Wildlife Areas, and more!

Good April-May birding, everyone. Look for us again in May-June as spring migration peaks . . . .

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Go Birding in (the Right) Bad Weather

Monday, April 19 at 7 PM via Zoom

Bryan Guarente

Free and open to the public

DFO's monthly program for April features Bryan Guarente, a Colorado birder and weather expert familiar to readers of the COBirds list-serv whenever major weather, especially in spring, sets up over our region as migrating birds make their way through the state. Guarente, who trains meteorologists at Boulder's UCAR, the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, has extended his work to help the birding community understand the relationship between weather and bird migration. Join him on Monday, April 19 just in time for spring migration. Guarente will focus on those unexpected "fallout" birds we sometimes see because they were forced down by inclement spring weather. "Let's take a look at some of those vagrant spring migrants," he says, "and see how the weather tells us their intriguing migration story."

REGISTER HERE:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HeHO97XPTFKDSWFp-_3RtA

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Greetings DFO Members.

It is time for the annual election of directors and officers of the board of Denver Field Ornithologists. As a member of DFO, you are entitled to vote. Follow this link to your ballot:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8LBJHQH

The ballot will remain open through April 26. It should only take a few minutes for you to complete. On behalf of the Nominating Committee of the Board of Denver Field Ornithologists, thank you for your participation!

Bea Weaver, Chair

Denver Field Ornithologists

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DFO Better Birding Skills Workshop: Concepts for Learning Bird Song

Tuesday, April 20

7 PM MDT via Zoom

Presenter: Karen Drozda

Free and open to all!

REGISTER HERE: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pd-GuqzosEtAPeikJTPOigbXJRseMY6Gj

Better Birding Skills Workshops return just in time for spring migration! DFO field trip leader and master birder Karen Drozda has designed this workshop for birders of every level. You will learn how you can increase your ability to pick out and identify bird songs and calls without relying on mnemonic memory tricks. This presentation will be live on Zoom with participants able to engage in a discussion at the end of the instructor's presentation. After the session, participants will take what they've learned into the field, including a worksheet to log their results for group discussion at a second, follow-up Zoom meeting several weeks later.

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Denver Field Ornithologists officially returns to in-person outings next week, May 7-9, with DFO Spring Bird Count trips at several popular metro Denver birding locations. Sign up for one now on the DFO website's "Field Trip" page at https://dfobirds.org/FieldTrips/UpcomingTrips.aspx

Locations include four state parks (Barr Lake, Castlewood Canyon, Chatfield and Cherry Creek), Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, Bear Creek Lake Park and Lower Bear Creek, and the Audubon Nature Center at Chatfield.

Led by DFO field trip leaders, participants will follow routes through various parts of each location, counting species and bird numbers. Trips generally start at 6:30 a.m. and run until 3 p.m. or earlier.

Participants will be asked to observe Covid-19 safety protocols, including 6 feet of "social distance" separation, and no carpooling to the trip location except with members of their own households. Although state and county health guidance about wearing masks outdoors is changing, participants must have masks and should wear them whenever situations in the field make keeping social distance difficult.

When going to the DFO website to sign up, you will first be directed to read and electronically sign the club's new trip liability waiver, which was revised while field trips were suspended because of the pandemic. The sign-up process is simple. You can go directly to the waiver page at this link: https://dfobirds.org/FieldTrips/Waiver.aspx

Watch for details soon about regular DFO field trips, which will resume later in May.

Good spring migration birding — on DFO field trips — everyone!

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The birds are finally coming, DFO birders!

As migration quickens and DFO birders head into the field *together* again, the June issue of ***The Lark Bunting*** is now available at: https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf. There's lots of news and features this month:

+ Yes, in-person field trips are back: Several Spring Bird Count trips this weekend, and a raft of regular field trips starting May 10. Get the details, and go sign up for a trip!

+ DFO members elected new officers and board members in April. Read about the results, and get psyched about the coming year in the first "From the President" column by our new president **Susan Blansett**

+ With migration comes breeding, and former DFO president **Chuck Hundertmark** explains why taking note of mating and nesting behavior and including it in your eBird lists makes eBird data even better — and your own birding more fun

+ Essayist **Jared Del Rosso** is back with thoughts about the sounds birds make, especially the distinctive scratching and scrabbing of leaves by the Spotted Towhee

+ In this month's "12 for '21" conservation tip, DFO member and gardener **Tina Jones** gives us a comprehensive rundown on how to invite more birds into the

yard with native Colorado plants that host the insects our feathered friends *really* love

Plus: DFO evening program reviews and previews, and other DFO news.

Continued good spring birding, everyone!

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Dear DFO family,

Everyone ready to hit the field trip trail again? After more than a year of Covid-19 shutdowns and restrictions, full-sized, unrestricted DFO birding outings are returning in June and July!

Last week the DFO Board and DFO Field Trip Committee voted unanimously to reopen our field trip program as it functioned before the coronavirus outbreak in March 2020. State and local health guidance now allows us to lead field trips of any size (trip leader's choice), local or out-of-town, daytrip or overnight, carpooling permitted.

New trips will be posted soon (the first July 2021 outings will go up online on Tuesday, June 1). DFO trip leaders will be planning more outings through summer and beyond.

In the meantime, a new electronic signature function added to the DFO website during the pandemic shutdown requires that every trip participant first sign the revised liability waiver. It's a simple procedure, and you will be prompted to do so when you go onto the website to sign up for your first post-shutdown outing.

Watch the Field Trips page (https://dfobirds.org/FieldTrips/UpcomingTrips.aspx) for new trips this week and beyond.

We continue to urge all participants to follow some common-sense practices. First among them is to get vaccinated against the coronavirus. As before, anyone not feeling well the day of a field trip should not attend. Although rigorous restrictions are no more, we still recommend that participants carry a mask (in case of need) and give each other a little extra elbow room on the trail.

DFO also is temporarily allowing out-of-town field trip caravans and “chase trips” to exceed DFO’s four-vehicle limit if there are participants who do not yet wish to carpool with others.

Welcome back to full and unrestricted field trips, everyone! We hope you enjoy the fellowship of our first post-pandemic summer. And, as always, good birding!

Karen von Saltza

DFO Field Trip Director

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Member Survey

Hello DFO members!

We need to hear from you about the future of DFO monthly programs. Until COVID came along, we presented these programs at Unity Church from Jan-Apr and then from Aug-Nov. For the past year we could not meet in person so we held the programs via Zoom. Did you like watching programs from the comfort of your home? Did you miss the social aspect of meeting in person? Please share your thoughts by clicking on this link to complete a brief survey. It should take less than 5 minutes. The survey will remain open through June 13.
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZZVCHB3

Thanks,
DFO Board of Directors

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Greetings DFO Members

As spring migration ends and the weather heats up, there are no summer doldrums of news for DFO birders. Check out the July-August issue of *The Lark Bunting* on the DFO website at: https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf. There's plenty to read and talk about this season:

+ In-person field trips are all the way back — no more mandatory Covid-19 restrictions on trip size, mingling outdoors or carpooling to out-of-town birding destinations. Read about new outings, how to get back in the saddle, and why commonsense precautions (vaccinations!) are still recommended if/when needed.

+ Who knew that our most common local hummingbird was in trouble? **Colleen Nunn** of the DFO Conservation Committee tracked down the facts about the Broad-tailed Hummingbird for this month's "12 for '21" conservation tip, Read what all of us can do to improve the prospects for this summertime visitor to so many yards.

+ We salute **Karen von Saltza**, who as DFO field trip and leader development director set our club's most popular activity on a fresh course over the past decade. Karen stepped down from her longtime role on May 31, and we say thanks here.

+ For more than three decades, DFO member **Bonnie Boex** (rhymes with "oaks") tirelessly advocated for bluebirds in Summit County, maintaining a trail of more than 50 nest boxes along the shore of Lake Dillon. After her untimely death in April, we remember and appreciate her dedicated work.

+ A favorite DFO field trip destination, bird-friendly Chico Basin Ranch outside of Colorado Springs, is *birder*-friendly, too — an open-gate, self-serve spot to view migrating rarities and more species than any other eBird hotspot in the state. But will access to Chico remain easy after the current ranch lease expires in 3-1/2 years? There is reason for worry, as **Patrick O'Driscoll** and **Roger Koester** report.

Plus: the saga of A "Green Big Day" bicycle birding adventure that benefited a research grant fund in the name of the late **Joe Roller** . . . a rundown on great bird-related podcasts . . . DFO volunteer opportunities, upcoming fall programs, and more!

Welcome to summer, and more good birding, everyone!

Denver Field Ornithologists

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As summer begins to taper toward autumn, *The Lark Bunting* is back from summer hiatus, chock full of news and features. Check out September's issue on the DFO website at: https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf. There's plenty to read and talk about this season:

+ Merlin Sound ID — Have you heard the buzz? Our reviewer, DFO trip leader and former prez **Chuck Hundertmark**, sorts out the hits and misses of this magical new app

+ In-person programs — After a pandemic year of remote presentations via Zoom, how about the best of both worlds? DFO's working on a return to in-person evening programs that are also livestreamed online so members who prefer can still watch from home

+ The trouble with cats — Read a persuasive essay by DFO cat lover **Steve Ryder** about why keeping felines indoors isn't just better for the birds that they won't kill, it's also better for cats' own life expectancy

+ DFO-funded research — Learn more about what six Colorado bird scientists and researchers are doing this summer with grants from DFO's Research, Conservation and Education Fund

Plus: The return of the annual members-only picnic in September . . . peeks at our autumn program lineup . . . a visit to the Front Range center that rehabs the injured birds that we and many others rescue in the field . . . and much more.

Stay cool, and continued good birding!

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DFO monthly program August 23 - Register now!

DFO monthly programs resume on Monday, August 23 at 7 PM with *Aves de Pura Vida: Birding in Costa Rica*. The presenter is Max Vindes, senior naturalist guide for Horizontes Nature Tours. He has over 20 years of experience guiding and leading eco-tourism itineraries in Costa Rica, Central America and Brazil. He complements his career as a guide by lecturing at many Costa Rican institutions and consulting on projects to develop eco-tourism in parks.
The presentation will include stunning photographs of birds and other subjects along with a number of videos made in the field especially for the program. This is a program you do not want to miss! We'll connect with him in Costa Rica via Zoom, so you must register in advance using this link:https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vKkEL8z4TImm_TaizFbJuQ

If you are new to Zoom you will need to set up a free account. Learn how here: https://zoom.us/If you have questions about getting set up to attend the program, contact dfobirds.secretary@gmail.com

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During spring and fall migration, Denver area birders survey local areas to inventory the state of the birds. Much like the Christmas Bird Count evaluates the status of winter residents, these counts help provide a picture of North American migrants.

Help is needed for each of DFO's Fall Count Trips. The trips are scheduled on September 10, 11 & 12. These trips are free and open to all, but more importantly skilled birders (you) are needed to ensure competent identifications. These trips are part of DFO's community science effort and have been going on for 41 years. Your expertise in bird identification is greatly needed and greatly appreciated. If your schedule is open during this time please consider participating in this count effort. You can register on the DFO website. You'll be prompted to create an account if you have not already done so. And thanks!

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It's fall migration, DFO birders! As southbound avian friends pass through and winter residents begin to return, the October 2021 issue of *The Lark Bunting* (now available to view and download at https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf) is filled with timely reading:

+ New Field Trips chair —**David Suddjian**, veteran trip leader and keen student of birds, habitat, and behavior, has hit the ground running. Read about his ideas for revitalizing a field trip program that's already second to none

+ Return of in-person programs — Our first post-pandemic program with an audience in the room is Sept. 27, with "Green Big Year" bicycling birder **Scott Somershoe**. Can't be there? Tune in from home via DFO's new YouTube Channel!

+ Field Tripping — In a new monthly feature, review a recent Denver Field Ornithologists outing of note. This month, it's Aspenbirding on DFO's first field trip to Pitkin County, in the words of **Donna Stumpp**

+ Silent summer? — And late spring and quiet autumn, too? **David Suddjian** tracks troubling signs of change in 2021, from high country to Plains, as some birds go missing and others show in far fewer numbers. What's going on?

PLUS: Conservation tips that cut out plastics AND save birds . . . the amazing flying fauna of Costa Rica . . . avian archaeology webinars on birds and their meaning to the ancient Southwest's early native peoples . . . DFO's record-setting member . . . and much more.

DON'T FORGET! DFO's annual members-only picnic is on **Sept. 18, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Prospect Park in Wheat Ridge!** Haven't RSVP'd yet? There's still time! Do so NOW at this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSefxnDvajFsZe8d8SsCLAT7plbhvKQhQZ8IhvDXhx7AMRn41A/viewform

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Denver Field Ornithologists' fifth Members-Only Summer Picnic is just a week and a half away! Have you signed up yet? Do so NOW!

On **Saturday, Sept. 18,** we'll gather from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Prospect Park in the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, site of our last DFO picnic in 2019. Arrive early (7:30 a.m.) if you'd like to join **John Breitsch**'s pre-picnic field trip through the greenbelt.

If you haven't RSVP'd yet, here's the link to do so:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSefxnDvajFsZe8d8SsCLAT7pIbhvKQhQZ8IhvDXhx7AMRn41A/viewform

(If for some reason you cannot access the reply form, send your RSVP directly to this year's picnic coordinator, ***Dave Hill****, at davidhill2357@gmail.com.)*

The 2021 picnic will feature the usual bratwurst-and-veggie-dog roast, including beverages, with potluck salads, side dishes and desserts provided by the members. We'll gather at long, spacious tables in the park's covered but open-air picnic pavilion. (Prospect Park is located off 44th Avenue and Robb Street west of Kipling in Wheat Ridge, CO 80033. Paths throughout the park are paved and accessible.)

The picnic is free to all DFO members and families or "plus-1" guests.

Picnic attendees are asked to bring potluck fare to share with six people or more. Dish categories are assigned alphabetically by last name:

+ Salads (**R – Z**)

+ Side dishes (**A – H**)

+ Desserts (**I – Q**)

Come join us Sept. 18 celebrate our return to a warm DFO community tradition, won't you?

A reminder that your voluntary contributions to DFO's Research, Education & Conservation Grants Fund are welcome. DFO Treasurer Sue Summers will be available to accept any donations, which annually go to worthy projects in:

- Education that supports knowledge of birds
- Research in ornithology
- Conservation of birds and their habitats

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Denver Field Ornithologists

Scott Somershoe

Monday, Sept. 27, 2021

7 p.m. MDT

LIVE in person at Unity Spiritual Center Denver, 3021 S. University Blvd., Denver

and **STREAMING LIVE** on DFO's YouTube Channel

Scott Somershoe will tell the story of his "Joe Roller Memorial Green Big Year" so far — a self-powered, carbon-free mission to record as many species in Colorado as possible, but only by bicycle or on foot from his home in Littleton.

As of Aug. 31, he has already reached 250 species and is eager to add more than two dozen with fall migration underway. The species tally is important because Somershoe is gathering per-species pledges and flat donations for the new Joe Roller Memorial Grant for bird research in Colorado. He and Colorado Field Ornithologists established the fund in tribute to **Joe Roller**, the longtime Colorado birder and ambassador for birding (and member of both

DFO and CFO) who died last November. If he can pass 265 species, he could end up raising $30,000 for the grant fund.

Somershoe is land birds coordinator for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Mountain-Prairie Region. To follow his Green Big Year endeavor (and to pledge a donation), visit his blog at https://jrmemorialgreenbigyear.blogspot.com/.

NOTE: Because of sometimes-shifting policies for in person gatherings, DFO may need to pivot back to Zoom for programs. If that happens, DFO will inform all members **via email** (as we do now to announce programs) and will **post updates** on the DFO website, Facebook, and Instagram pages.

An important note for those attending in person: Unity Denver's Covid-19 protocols strongly encourage **wearing masks and social distancing** in the church's sanctuary. We ask that you honor this sensible practice by bringing a mask and sitting apart from others beyond your own close circle.

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Dear DFO members,

Our new November field trips are open for registration early tomorrow, October 1. Go to our web page to check out all the new offerings:https://dfobirds.org/FieldTrips.aspx

Among highlights this month are two trips heading up to big mountain reservoirs in search of fun fall waterbird migrants like loons and scoters that may appear in November. Other trips target Pueblo and El Paso, great areas for late fall migrants, and we offer more local trips across the metro area.

Beginning in November DFO introduces a "Developing Birder" theme on some field trips, planned especially to help you on their journey of birding discovery.

See what we are offering this time and sign up. Ask a friend to join you, if you know someone who has not taken advantage of our fine field trips.

David Suddjian

Field Trip Committee Chair

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We're all into fall now, DFO birders. As southbound avian friends migrate through and winter residents begin to return, the November 2021 issue of the Denver Field Ornithologists newsletter, *The Lark Bunting*, is now available to view and download at https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf. This month's highlights include:

+ **DFO's eBird profile?** — Yes, our club has one, and new DFO Field Trip chair **David Suddjian** takes us on a tour of its hits (56 counties) and misses (8 counties) in the first installment of his *From the Field* column .

+ **Up close, personally** — Read the first profile in our new feature, *In the Scope*, a monthly Q+A with a DFO field trip leader, other volunteer or member involved in the life of the club. First up is trip leader **John Breitsch**, the undisputed bird whisperer of First Creek and Green Valley Ranch and DFO's only nuclear pharmacy technician.

+ **Road trip with camping** — Join a hardy band of DFO birders on an overnighter to Rio Blanco County in our new *Field Tripping* featured review of a recent DFO outing of note. This month's is a two-day, one-night, 108-species saga to Rio Blanco County and other points in northwestern Colorado, in the words of trip leader David Suddjian.

PLUS: A review of bicycling birder **Scott Somershoe**'s Green Big Year update (261 species and counting) in DFO's September program . . . details on the upcoming final two evening programs of 2021 . . . rallying words from our president . . . some handy year-end advice on tax-deductible contributions to your favorite birding club . . . and more.

Good autumn birding, everyone!

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DFO Monthly Program

Monday, Oct 25 - 7 PM

Nathan Pieplow

The Internet of Wings: How the data revolution is about to change the way you bird

Our October program will be held live at Unity Spiritual Center, 3021 S. University Blvd, Denver, 80210. Masks and socially distancing are required for in person attendance. You can also access the program on DFO's You Tube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFqZeYj0BHP-EuNxjb4bthQ

Pieplow will discuss how cutting-edge innovations in bird tracking and automatic identification can enhance conservation, community science and the appeal of birding overall. Pieplow is a former editor of CFO's quarterly journal and the author of two volumes of the *Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds*. He is an assistant professor of writing and rhetoric at the University of Colorado Boulder. Pieplow is a frequent presenter at DFO so we can expect another great program. Please join us!

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Dear DFO members,
DFO's new December 2021 field trips are open for registration early tomorrow, November 1. Go to our web page to check out all the new offerings:https://dfobirds.org/FieldTrips.aspx

In addition to the many opportunities to participate with DFO on the December 18 Denver CBC, DFO is planning at least 8 field trips in December. Several trips will visit varied and fun winter spots throughout the Metro Area, including a rare DFO visit to Broomfield County. Trips also range north to Boulder and Larimer counties, and out to Aurora Reservoir, a perennial winter hotspot.
Ask a friend to join you if you know someone who has not taken advantage of our fine field trips.

David Suddjian

Field Trip Committee Chair

Denver Field Ornithologists

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Greetings DFO Members

As the year winds down, there is lots of news to share about DFO, birding, and bird conservation. Check out the December issue of *The Lark Bunting* on the DFO website at: https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf. There's plenty to read and talk about:

+ We return to Zoom for some incredible programs beginning on November 22 when **Crystal Dreiling** with Colorado Parks and Wildlife will introduce us to Fisher's Peak, Colorado's newest state park. And take a sneak peek at the programs in 2022 that you will not want to miss.

+ Check out the DFO members who have hit membership milestones in 2021 and learn about the new field trip leaders who have completed their training in DFO News Notes.

+ The Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for December 18. Count coordinator **Joey Kellner** tells us how to get involved whether you are new to birding or are ready to take on a leadership role.

+ Learn about the impacts of green energy on bird populations with **Roger Koester** in the last installment of the DFO conservation committee's 12 Tips for '21.

+ We love field trips! Read about the future of DFO field trips with field trip committee Chair **David Suddjian**, meet field trip leader **Jared Del Rosso,** and travel along with **Patricia Cullen** on a birding trip to southeast Colorado.

Don't forget to renew your membership (or join if you are not yet a member.) **Sue Summers** and Roger Koester tell us how your donations to DFO can both help the organization AND your bottom line.

In this season of gratitude, DFO president **Susan Blansett** reminds us to get out there and bird! You never know when the unexpected will reward your efforts.

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DFO Monthly Program

Crystal Dreiling*From "Crazy French" to Fishers Peak: a new Colorado state park*

Monday, November 22 at 7 PM via Zoom

Register in advance using this link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JvDOzzapSiq1xSEFkmjAgA.

In October 2020, Fishers Peak became the newest and second-largest of Colorado's state parks. With rugged topography, dense, wildlife-rich forests, grasslands, foothills and mesas in the mountainous southern borderlands outside Trinidad, Fishers Peak opened in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic with public access to only a tiny, 250-acre patch of its 19,200 total acres. The limited public access gives us a taste of the hiking, hunting, and wildlife watching that will be available in the park while scientific inventories, planning and development occur.

A Colorado native, Dreiling joined Colorado State Parks 19 years ago as a seasonal boat ranger at Cherry Creek State Park, working summers throughout college and becoming a full-time park ranger in 2006. Her other park assignments before coming south to Trinidad Lake (2013) included Chatfield State Park and the senior ranger post at Golden Gate Canyon State Park. She became park manager for both Trinidad Lake and Fishers Peak in 2019.

Join us the Monday before Thanksgiving to learn more about the park's origins, what has been learned about it thus far, what's ahead, and the prospects for birders. As always, DFO programs are free and open to the public.

Need help with Zoom? Find basic instructions on how to get started on the Zoom website.

Attachments area

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Each year in the fall, we reach out to you to renew your membership in DFO. If you have enjoyed DFO's field trips, programs, and newsletter, but have not yet joined, this is the best time to become a member. If you join or renew now, your membership will begin immediately and extend all the way through 2022.

This is also a great time to consider gift memberships for the people on your holiday gift list who enjoy birding.

Whether you want to renew, join, or purchase a gift membership, the DFO website, https://dfobirds.org/ makes it easy. Go to the Membership page and you will be prompted to log in. The benefits of membership are outlined there, and you can make your selections. You can opt to pay electronically through PayPal (you can use a credit card without setting up a PayPal account) or send in a check.

Thanks in advance for making it possible for DFO to continue offering field trips, programs, and more in 2022!

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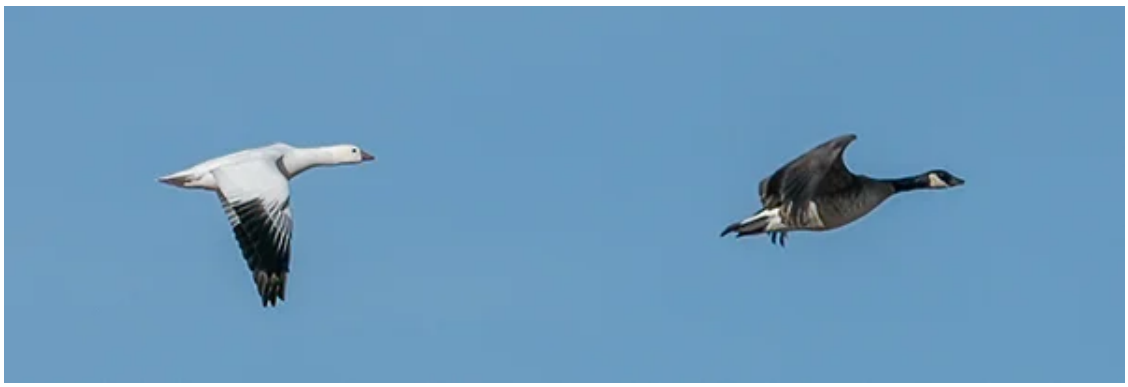

Dear DFO members,

On Wednesday December 1st our new DFO trips for January will become available for registration at **12:00 Noon**, rather than in the wee hours, as before. We plan to stick with this adjusted timing going forward.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to register for our trips. DFO will begin 2022 with a great set of offerings. Invite a friend to register who may be new to DFO.

David Suddjian

Field Trip Committee Chair

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Greetings DFO members!

As we enter the holiday season and our feathered friends hunker down for the winter, we would like to ask for your help. This is not a request for money, but rather, a request for a bit of your time - 3 minutes or less. And there is no need to leave the comfort of your home.

One of the goals of the DFO Board for the coming year is to increase our outreach efforts and bring the enjoyment of birding to more people, including younger folks and families. More people birding will help us achieve our mission of protecting birds and their habitats.
We know you support the DFO mission because you have chosen to be members. Many of you are donors, as well. Now we'd like to know what you value about DFO and how you would describe our organization to potential members. This link will take you to a short survey that is completely anonymous. Please take a couple of minutes to share your thoughts. The survey will remain open until December 14.

Find the survey here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9NYQ8KD

Thanks in advance for your participation and for your continued support of DFO's mission to promote birding and preserve birds and their habitats,

DFO Board

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The weather hardly fits, but winter is still upon us, by the calendar anyway. On the cusp of a new year, too, comes the January 2022 issue of the Denver Field Ornithologists newsletter, *The Lark Bunting*, which is now available at https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf. This month's highlights include:

+ Up close, personally — Our *In the Scope* Q+A with a DFO field trip leader features **Mark Amershek**, whose lively answers include something he calls "The Amershek Method" as well as one of the wildest stories of going birding in the middle of Central American political upheaval you may ever read

+ Field tripping in 2022 — DFO's field trip chair, **David Suddjian**, explains new procedures designed to make signing up in 2022 for field trips, *aka* "memorable moments," easier and more equitable

+ Labor of love for a trove of bird data — DFO member **Frank Justice** compiled volumes of Colorado birding observations for decades. But he died decades before he could share them digitally. Now, his widow and her stepdaughter, birders both, are putting Justice's mid-20th century records onto eBird — and sharing priceless family history and memories from the field

PLUS: A review of the final DFO evening program of 2021, with the head of one of Colorado's newest state parks . . . details on four upcoming DFO evening programs for winter and spring . . . a DFO grant recipient's explanation why our donations are so key for future scientists still in school . . . one more plea (still time!) for you to join the Denver Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 18 . . . and more!

Good winter birding, everyone!

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Hello DFO birders,

DFO is making a change in the timing of our monthly field trip registration. Beginning in January we move the opening date of registration for most of our trips to be 2-4 weeks ahead of the trip date, instead of the former 4-8 weeks.

Here's how it will work: Trips scheduled for Feb. 1-15 will "go live" for registration on Jan. 15, 2022, instead of on New Year's Day. The other half of new trips, scheduled for Feb. 16-28, will be available for sign up on Feb. 1. Again, signup time will be 12 noon instead of sometime before dawn. Read more about it here: https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf

So no new sign ups on January 1, but watch for them on January 15.

David Suddjian

Field Trip Committee Chair

Denver Field Ornithologists

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